General Exam Feedback

Both text responses:

1. Titles are underlined, NOT IN QUOTATION MARKS AT ALL, EVER, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES! IF ANY OF YOU GET THIS WRONG AGAIN, I WILL HAUNT YOU FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIVES!
2. It’s a text or a novel, film, play…NOT movie, book.
3. You must correctly spell the author/director’s name. Do not guess. Actually LEARN it.
4. Ten minutes before the exam finishes, if you know you won’t be able to finish an essay, dot point the ideas you would have included, so you can at least earn marks for those ideas.
5. Keep it in third-person and present tense.
6. There should be no abbreviations or contractions.
7. Factor in the time it takes you to think of ideas, select a topic and remember information. It might take 5 minutes to read the material, 30 seconds to choose a topic, 2 minutes to write down some ideas, another 1.5 minutes to plan the order of the ideas and there are 8 minutes without having even started the essay.
8. The first paragraph of your essays should be the strongest. Always. No exceptions. Ever.
9. Bring extra blue and black pens. Seriously, the amount of pens I had to hand out was ridiculous. You can guarantee that your pen will run out when you need it most: during an exam. So, pack extra.
10. Plural possessive apostrophes!
11. Effect (usually noun)/ affect (usually verb).
12. Good to concede opposing points: “Although his personality was likely to have altered as he matured anyway, his relationships with…”
13. Quotations must be related to ideas; don’t just include them because you’ve memorised them!
14. Be careful of active and passive verbs.

*Deadly Unna?*

Nicknames: introduce character as Gary Black (Blacky) and then only refer to him as Blacky.

*Red Dog*

Ensure you have a film technique in every paragraph. Don’t just omit it from your third paragraph! Know their labels: montage, not snippets. These devices (as well as literary devices) need to be authentic , not just inserted because you have to have one! You may as well not include one if this is the case!

Persuasive writing:

1. Offer a solution.
2. Specifically refer to the evidence in the task material, eg., ‘The *Bangalara Standard* reported the “narrowly averted serious injury” that took place recently.’ Look at my usage of quotation marks-this goes for quoting dialogue from texts, too…get it right!
3. Adopt a formal tone for a persuasive piece, no matter whether it is a letter to an editor or a speech to a class. As such, third-person is normally best, but you might need to write in first-person if you’re writing a letter, for example. Do not mix second-person into your choice; stick to one.

The same goes for tense-often present tense is best for persuasives, so don’t suddenly switch to past tense, for example. Those of you who are voracious readers already get this right without even having to think about it; it’s second nature to you because your internal voice already picks up when something ‘sounds’ wrong or right. For the rest of you, start reading NOW. Your writing is never going to improve as long as you continue to starve your mind and your internal voice. The reading you do now will start to find its way into your writing in VCE. If you don’t start reading until VCE, your writing will continue to be at the standard it is right now. This is a long-term solution and you need to start it NOW. It makes a massive difference; trust me. Rant over ☺

1. Going back to tone again (!) don’t be too passionate as it reads like you’re trying to overcompensate for a lack of actual information/evidence. Plus, then, rebuttal ideas sound out of place. Also, be very restrained in your use of exclamation marks.
2. Use your common sense and try to get to the real issues underlying the given issue-targetting youth as they’re the ones who normally skateboard, consider their contribution to the profits of local businesses, too, right to freedom of expression, etc. The issue was not about skaters inside the shopping centre, but outside in the carparks and footpaths!!!
3. Rebuttal structure-revise it. DO NOT contradict yourself!

Questions for reflection:

What revision strategies did you use?

Put a tick next to the strategies that you think helped and a cross next to those you feel were a waste of time or hindered your revision. REMEMBER THIS FOR NEXT TIME YOU HAVE AN EXAM AND DON’T REPEATED USELESS REVISION STRATEGIES!!!

What did you do well in this exam? This might include some of the following ideas or other ideas completely:

* Time management
* Cohesive structure
* Depth of ideas
* Broad range of themes
* Character development
* Original arguments
* Good use of task material
* Quick at planning ideas
* Selected topics quickly
* Memorisation of quotations and examples

What did you feel least confident about: [Refer to ideas above or any others that you feel are relevant]

What revision strategies do you think would help improve these areas?